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1 September 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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USSR: The 29 August announcement by Moscow that it was halting the discharge of "necessary numbers" of servicemen whose tours were scheduled to expire in 1961 could, if accompanied by the induction of the usual number of draftees during the year, mean the addition of 750,000 to 800,000 men to the present total of about 3,000,000 men in the Soviet armed forces. It appears unlikely, however, that anything like 750,000 to 800,000 will be added. The retention of technicians, specialists, and noncommissioned officers due for discharge this year, plus normal recruitment, could result in the addition of as many as 350,000 to the Soviet armed forces.

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Japan: Demonstrations are threatened in connection with US Marine artillery maneuvers scheduled to begin on 1 September at a firing range on the slopes of Mt. Fuji. The militant Sohyo labor federation and the Japanese Socialist party are planning demonstrations to supplement those already begun by local farmers. Government officials in a meeting on 29 August failed to persuade farmers to withdraw from one of the ranges where they have been staging a sit-down to dramatize their demand for return of the land to cultivation. Defense Agency director Sensuke Fujieda, with the support of Prime Minister Ikeda, has recommended that the cabinet approve compensation for the farmers, but no action has yet been taken.

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Afghanistan-Pakistan: The Afghan Government on 30 August notified Pakistan that Kabul will sever diplomatic relations by 6 September unless Pakistan reconsiders its recent decision to close Afghan consulates and trade offices in Pakistan. The Afghans apparently regard the closure as tantamount to a blockade despite Pakistani assurances that transit trade could be administered by other means. Earlier, the Pakistani ambassador in Kabul had told a US Embassy official that "we are ready for any response. If they wish to sever diplomatic relations we are ready. If they wish to make some stronger response we are ready too."

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Ethiopia: About 200 persons suspected of disloyalty to the Emperor, including the president of the imperial court, were reportedly arrested in Addis Ababa during the night of 29-30 August. Security officials may have feared that reformist elements were plotting to overthrow the regime while Emperor Haile Selassie attends the conference of nonaligned nations in Belgrade.

The crown prince, named by the rebels during the abortive coup last December to head their new government, told Ambassador Richards recently that he now was associated with two reformist groups--one composed of young progressives and the other certain leading military figures. The crown prince professed the hope of exerting a moderating influence on the two groups in order to avoid a revolution--which he foresaw if matters were allowed to drift. *The crown prince has accompanied the Emperor to Belgrade, but an attempt at a coup during his absence cannot be ruled out.

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SELECTED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

(Available during the preceding week)

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Main trends in Soviet capabilities and policies, 1961-1966.
Annex A, Soviet military forces and capabilities. Annex B,
Tables. U.S.I.B. NIE 11-4-61, annexes A and B. Aug 24'61.
0037000.

Soviet tactics in the Berlin crisis: chances of new unilateral action, Soviet attitude toward negotiations, timing of diplomatic moves, and effect of developments in East Germany.
U.S.I.B. SNIE 11-10-61. Aug 24'61.

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Leftists Oppose US Maneuvers in Japan

[Japanese leftists have apparently decided that the most recent dispute over the northern sector of the Fuji-McNair maneuver grounds can be exploited in their campaign against the US-Japanese alliance and Japan's modest defense build-up. Since they failed earlier this year to halt government construction of a missile test range on Niijima, an island south of Tokyo, they have been seeking another issue capable of capturing the headlines.]

[The controversy over the two ranges on the northern and eastern slopes of Mount Fuji has caused almost constant agitation since the ratification of the US-Japanese security treaty in June 1960. Farmers claim that the right to use the land for military purposes ended with the expiration of the 1952 security treaty under which the ranges were established. They want the land returned. The farmers use the area as a source of firewood, fodder, and compost. The range also obstructs Japanese tourists on pilgrimages to the sacred mountain.]

[Last August, the newly installed Ikeda government ended similar protests by promising local residents to seek US release of the facility, now used by both US and Japanese forces. Negotiations for its return to Japanese control began last September. The governments of Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures, where the ranges are located, believe their economic problem would be eased by conversion of some of the land to agricultural uses.]

[American observers have noted the use in recent months of increasingly sophisticated measures such as lawsuits and economic pressures by opponents of the bases. The Japanese Government's growing concern led to the establishment on 30 May of committees at cabinet and sub-cabinet level for dealing with military base problems and preventing, if possible, the development of controversial situations.]

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Afghanistan Threatens to Sever Diplomatic Relations
With Pakistan

The Afghans probably hope that the prospect of a complete collapse in Afghan-Pakistani diplomatic relations and the disruption of American aid shipments will bring US pressure on Pakistan. Shipments bound to American aid projects in the Kabul area and in southern Afghanistan are being held up in Pakistan for lack of the necessary documentation, and many projects may soon be brought to a halt if a solution is not found. While the Afghans hope for US intervention, they apparently blame the United States as an accomplice, inasmuch as Pakistan's action follows President Ayub's recent visit to the United States. Expressing Afghan bitterness toward America, Foreign Minister Naim told Ambassador Byroade that the United States should not be concerned since it still had Pakistan as a "good ally" in the area.

Moscow has reportedly offered shipment across the USSR for no more than the cost of moving goods from the Pakistani port of Karachi to the Afghan border. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Plotting in Ethiopia

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A member of the crown prince's entourage identified as a leader of a civilian coup group was arrested on 18 August on charges of complicity in plotting against the regime, [redacted]

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[redacted] The rebels might take advantage of the Emperor's decision to include the crown prince in the delegation to launch the coup. Subsequently they could request the prince--whose implication in a plot would be lessened by his absence--to return as Ethiopia's constitutional monarch.

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[redacted] The prince told the American ambassador on 12 August that the dissatisfied elements in Ethiopia were becoming stronger and more vocal because of the lack of political or economic progress. Haile Selassie's inability or unwillingness to implement reforms has brought expressions of discontent in Addis Ababa--unprecedented prior to the December coup attempt. The country now appears psychologically prepared to accept changes--including revolutionary changes.

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[redacted] The prince identified Mikael Imru and Haddis Alemayehu--cabinet ministers recently dismissed for attempting to exercise some degree of independence in their ministries--as leading members of the young reformist group. Members of this group seek early political, economic, and social reforms. The military group is headed by a triumvirate of Generals Merid, Kebede, and Issayas--minister of defense, chief of staff of the armed forces, and commander of the ground forces respectively. It also includes General Abbey, minister of interior, and General Aman, the able, outspoken Third Division army commander who also has political ambitions. This group is more concerned with preventing anticipated public disturbances and keeping the empire intact than pressing for reforms.

[redacted] In his conversation with Ambassador Richards, the crown prince said he hoped to convince the two groups that they should

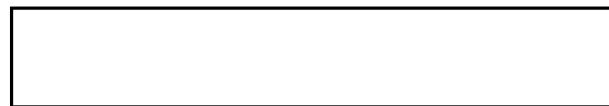
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[redacted] collaborate to ensure progress and to minimize the chances of conflict. He indicated a preference for bringing about reform gradually by exerting pressure through progressive civilian elements rather than through military control. He admitted that while the army could probably control Addis Ababa, it could not control the rest of the country, where the people are well armed and traditionally independent of central authority.

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The Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization

The Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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The Under Secretary of State

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